

Background: The Unified Planning Work Program is required by federal and State transportation planning regulations and provides a summary of the transportation and related air quality planning tasks to be conducted by Metropolitan Planning Organization staff. The FY2024 and FY2025 UPWP was approved by the Regional Transportation Council and North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Executive Board in July 2023 and identifies the activities to be carried out between October 1, 2023, and September 30, 2025. Amendments to this document are being proposed to reflect new initiatives, project updates, and funding adjustments. The proposed amendments are provided in Electronic Item 3.1.1 and are posted on the NCTCOG website for public review and comment as part of the March 2024 public outreach opportunity. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 3.1.2. The Surface Transportation Technical Committee took action at the March 22, 2024, meeting to recommend Regional Transportation Council approval.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

3.2. Additional Transportation Alternative Set-Aside Funding for Greenville Avenue Trail Project as Part of Cotton Belt Trail

Presenter: Christie Gotti, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff requests Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of \$1,092,500 in additional Transportation Alternative Set-Aside (TASA) funds for the existing RTC-funded Greenville Avenue Multimodal Improvements Project in Richardson (TIP 40071/CSJ 0918-47-323).

Background: In September 2020, the RTC approved \$1,702,948 in TASA funds matched with 340,589 in Transportation Development Credits (TDCs) through the 2020 TASA Call for Projects. The project recently let with a higher-than-expected bid price and a \$1,250,000 funding shortfall. The City has reached out to the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) for additional TASA funding needed in order to let the project this summer. Typically, projects selected via the 2020 TASA Call for Projects like this one are not

eligible for cost overruns. However, in July 2023, in order to expedite engineering on a small section of the RTC's 2023 RAISE grant award for the Cotton Belt Trail, the City agreed to pay for a portion of the design of the Cotton Belt Trail Project in Richardson. At the time, NCTCOG staff concurred with a request to offset that local cost through the award of \$1,092,500 in federal funds on another project in the City at a later date. The City has officially requested that the cost overrun on the Greenville Avenue project be partially funded with the \$1,092,500 federal plus TDCs with the City paying for the balance of the cost overrun. NCTCOG staff requests RTC approval of this additional funding to complete the 2023 RAISE grant partnership.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Bike/Ped +, Transit

1:20 – 1:35

4. **Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 15
Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

1. Secretary of Transportation Visit on April 4, 2024
2. Transit 2.0 Implementation: Next Steps
3. Randy Skinner, Director of Transportation Services, Tarrant County
4. Senior Program Staff Organization Changes
5. Regional Transportation Council Bylaws Related to Weighted Voting for the Cities of Dallas and Fort Worth (Electronic Item 4.1)
6. Metropolitan Planning Organization 50th Anniversary Planning: Proposed Luncheon During the Irving Summit
7. Spring 2024 Traffic Incident Management Executive Level Course Announcement – May 2, 2024 (Electronic Item 4.2)
8. 2024 National Work Zone Awareness Week – April 15 – 19, 2024 ([2024 National Work Zone Awareness Week](#))
9. 2024 Ozone Season Update (Electronic Item 4.3)
10. Invitation to Multimodal Delivery Showcase Hosted by City of Arlington on May 8, 2024 (Electronic Item 4.4)
11. Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Submittal (Electronic Item 4.5)
12. Local Clean Air Spotlight (Electronic Item 4.6)

- 13. Air Quality Funding Opportunities
(www.nctcog.org/aqfunding)
- 14. Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events
(www.dfwcleancities.org/events)
- 15. February – March Public Comment Report (Electronic Item 4.7)
- 16. March Public Meeting Minutes (Electronic Item 4.8)
- 17. April Public Meeting Notice (Electronic Item 4.9)
- 18. Recent News Articles (Electronic Item 4.10)
- 19. Recent Correspondence (Electronic Item 4.11)
- 20. Recent Press Releases (Electronic Item 4.12)

1:35 – 1:45

5. **North Central Texas Council of Governments Grant Management and Regional Transportation Council Initiative Fund**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) to approve the development of a Grant Management and RTC Initiative Fund.

Background: The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) has been aggressively applying for and awarded numerous federal grants for the Dallas-Fort Worth region over the last few years. Staff will request a fund be created to support application development, grant management, compliance, and oversight. The fund would also be used to facilitate other RTC initiatives implemented on behalf of the Council that are not budgeted through authorized projects. By paying administrative costs from a stand-alone fund, more revenue would be passed through for project implementation. An overview is provided in Electronic Item 5.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

1:45 – 1:55

6. **2024 Federal Transit Administration Low or No Emissions and Bus/Bus Facilities Competitive Grant Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Shannon Stevenson, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval to submit a regional grant application to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Low or No Emissions and Bus/Bus Facilities Competitive Grant Program.

Background: The Federal Transit Administration released the Fiscal Year 2024 Low or No Emissions and Bus/Bus Facilities Competitive Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), which is expected to award approximately \$1.5 billion for modernizing aging transit fleets with low- and no-emission buses, renovate and construct bus facilities, and support workforce development. Eligible projects include the purchasing or leasing of low or no emission buses, related equipment including electric vehicle charging stations, and workforce development and training. Applications are due by April 25, 2024. In response to the NOFO, North Central Texas Council of Governments staff will request approval to submit a grant application to procure electric vehicles and related infrastructure for the upcoming 2026 FIFA World Cup events, then those vehicles would be transitioned to public transit agencies throughout the region to replace buses near or at the end of their useful life with electric vehicles. The grant application will also propose to procure electric vehicles on behalf of Trinity Metro. The total grant budget will not exceed \$55,472,890 including \$2,840,916 in local match provided by Trinity Metro for their buses and 5,906,168 Transportation Development Credits (TDCs) in lieu of local match for the 2026 FIFA World Cup buses and related charging stations. Please see Electronic Item 6 for more information.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Transit

1:55 – 2:05

7. **Proposed Regional Transportation Council Broadband Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Connor Sadro, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request action to approve Four Proposed Elements of Broadband Activities brought as an information item at the previous Regional Transportation Council (RTC) meeting.

Background: On December 4th, 2023, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Transportation Department held a Public Sector Broadband Stakeholders Roundtable in which broadband subject matter experts from across the region gathered to determine a path forward for NCTCOG action. An information item presented during the March 2024 RTC meeting included background information on the issues

related to the field of public broadband investment and implementation. This presentation also provided RTC members with an overview of the discussion from the Roundtable that resulted in the Four Proposed Elements of Broadband meant to guide NCTCOG action on the topic. During the March RTC meeting, members were given an opportunity to provide feedback on the Four Proposed Elements and were notified that staff would return with action during the next meeting. Staff would like to request action to approve the plan to execute the Four Proposed Elements. This plan includes structures of technical and policy committees, as well as steps to achieve a regional broadband deployment strategy and legislative program. Electronic Item 7 provides more detailed information.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Air Quality

2:05 – 2:15

8. Congestion Relief Grant Program Submission

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Natalie Bettger, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of a regional project submittal and match funds for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Congestion Relief Grant (CRG) Program.

Background: In February 2024, the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) issued an announcement for Congestion Relief Grant program proposals to reduce highway congestion, reduce economic and environmental costs associated with that congestion, including transportation emissions, and optimize existing highway capacity and usage of highway and transit systems. USDOT will provide funding for a minimum of \$10 million per grant. A 20 percent local match is required. A copy of the Notice of Funding Opportunity that details the \$150 million grant program, as well as the application requirements is provided at www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/351055. Applications are due to the USDOT by April 22, 2024. Staff will provide an overview of the proposed regional project that will be submitted by the North Central Texas Council of Governments. Total project cost is \$20 million. Staff will be submitting for \$20 million in federal funds and requesting 4 million in Transportation Development Credits in lieu of the required 20 percent match. An

overview of the proposed project is contained in Electronic Item 8.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

2:15 – 2:25

9. **Safe Streets and Roads for All Grants Submission**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Karla Windsor, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will be requesting Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of a regional planning project submittal and local match funds for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Discretionary Grant program.

Background: The U.S. Department of Transportation has announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity for the solicitation of applications for FY24 SS4A funding. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law established the new SS4A discretionary program with \$5 billion in appropriated funds over the next five years. A maximum of one grant application of any type may be submitted per agency. Staff will provide an overview of the proposed regional planning grant that will be submitted by the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). Total project cost is \$6.25 million. Staff will be submitting for \$5 million in federal funds and is requesting \$1.25 million of Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) funds for the required 20 percent local match. An overview of the proposed project is contained in Electronic Item 9.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

2:25 – 2:35

10. **Fiscal Year 2025 – 2026 Multimodal Projects Discretionary Grant Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jeff Neal, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of projects to be submitted for funding consideration through the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Program. This \$5.1 billion program solicits project applications for three funding opportunities: the National Infrastructure Project Assistance Grants Program (MEGA), the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects Grant Program (INFRA), and the Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (RURAL).

Background: As with previous years, the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) combines three major discretionary grant programs in efforts to reduce burdens for State and local applicants, increase the pipeline of “shovel-worthy” projects now possible because of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), and enable United States Department of Transportation to get a more comprehensive view of projects in development nationwide. The MPDG Program application deadline is May 6, 2024. Additional program, application requirement, and candidate project details are included in Electronic Item 10, while more comprehensive information can be obtained at: <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/mpdg-program>. For agencies in the region submitting their own projects, please be aware you must complete the www.grants.gov registration process, usually requiring two-four weeks for completion, prior to submitting applications. Assuming the projected timing for application development, agency requests to receive a letter of support from the RTC should be submitted to Nicholas Allen by Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at nallen@nctcog.org.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Goods Movement, Roadway

2:35 – 2:45

11. **Developing Mobility 2050: Kickoff**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Brendon Wheeler, NCTCOG

Item Summary: The Mobility 2045 Update was adopted by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) on June 9, 2022. Staff will provide a report regarding efforts to develop the next Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Mobility 2050.

Background: Following RTC adoption of the Mobility 2045 Update, staff and partner agencies have been working toward implementing the mobility plan. These efforts include extensive coordination with public and transportation partners and project development activities to advance projects through the planning and design phases toward implementation. Federal guidelines require the Dallas-Fort Worth region to update the long-range transportation plan a minimum of every four years and cover at least 20 years into the future. In addition, Mobility 2050 must demonstrate federal transportation conformity for air quality. The updated plan will include a new financial plan, updated demographics and technical analysis,

updated project recommendation listings, and robust public involvement. Electronic Item 11 contains additional details.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2:45 – 2:55

12. Look Out Texans Video Local Distribution

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Kevin Kokes, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update about the Look Out Texans safety campaign and a request for local government assistance to distribute the campaign videos through local media outlets.

Background: In 2015, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) launched the Look Out Texans Bike, Walk, Drive Safely education campaign aimed at increasing safety for all road users across North Texas. The campaign highlights everyone's rights and responsibilities when walking, biking, or driving and encourages our neighbors, friends, and family to do so as well. A wide variety of Look Out Texans branded education videos are available which include North Texas volunteers providing tips for drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists traveling on the region's roadways. In recent years NCTCOG has promoted these videos primarily through social media. However, throughout 2024 staff will be coordinating with local governments staff and officials to supplement NCTCOG's safety outreach efforts by distributing these videos through local media, government access channels and online streaming platforms, community buildings, and message boards. Videos available for distribution range in length from 15 seconds to 15 minutes and can be viewed online at www.lookouttexans.org/videos. Various videos will include an introduction by Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Chair Gyna Bivens emphasizing traffic safety as a top priority by the RTC. An overview of this partnership effort for local safety education and outreach is contained in Electronic Item 12.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

13. **Progress Reports**

Action Possible Action Information

Item Summary: Progress Reports are provided in the items below.

- RTC Attendance (Electronic Item 13.1)
- STTC Attendance and Minutes (Electronic Item 13.2)

14. **Other Business (Old or New)**: This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.

15. **Future Agenda Items**: This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of future interest before the Council.

16. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council is scheduled for **1:00 pm, Thursday, May 9, 2024, in the Transportation Council Room.**